



PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Horatio Lo, Sam Tam, David Lee, Dietmar M. Kurpanek  
Assignee: Vicom Systems, Inc.  
Title: DISTRIBUTED STORAGE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM  
ARCHITECTURE  
Serial No.: 09/904,824 Filed: July 12, 2001  
Examiner: Christopher B. Shin Group Art Unit: 2182  
Docket No.: VCM0002P1US

Austin, Texas  
May 14, 2004

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Technology Center 2100

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Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, having a shortened statutory period expiring on April 14, 2004. Accompanying this response is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for a one (1) month extension of time, setting a new time for response to May 14, 2004. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

No Amendments to the Specification are presented in this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

No Amendments to the Drawings are presented in this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.